IN THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with strikethrough. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please **CANCEL** claim 2.

Please **AMEND** claims in accordance with the following.

1.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A client/server system comprising:

a server, comprising:

software to generate operating instructions for a client-side I/O device;

a device driver to function at the server as a client-side device driver for input-output control of a client-side I/O port, to generate a control signal for the client-side I/O device based on the operating instructions from the software; and

a virtual I/O port to function at the server as a client-side I/O port interface to the device driver by transmitting an input-outputdirectly transmit the control received from the device driver and informing the device driver of a received client-side I/O device event signal for the client-side I/O device and to directly receive an I/O event from the client-side I/O device, to directly control the client-side I/O device; and

a client communicably connectable with the server and communicably connectable with the client-side I/O device, the client in communication with the client-side I/O device, comprising:

a client-side device handler to directly receive receive the input-output control from the server the control signal from the virtual I/O port in the server and to transmit the client-side I/O device event to the server virtual I/O port, and

a client-side I/O port to control the client-side I/O device according to an input-output control from the client-side device handler based upon system resources in the server, and to directly transmit the I/O event received from the client-side I/O device to the virtual I/O port in the server.

2.   (CANCELLED)

3.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A server, comprising:

software to generate operating instructions for <u>a client communicably connected to the</u> <u>server, the client communicably connectable via a client-side I/O port to</u> a client-side I/O device ~~coupled with a client~~;

a device driver <u>to function at the server as a client-side device driver for input-output</u> <u>control of the client-side I/O port</u> ~~to generate a control signal for the client-side I/O device based~~ ~~on the operating instructions~~; and

a virtual I/O port to <u>function at the server as a client-side I/O port interface to the device</u> <u>driver by transmitting an input-output</u>~~directly transmit the~~ control signal <u>received</u> from the device driver ~~in the server~~ to a client-side device handler of the client, the client-side device handler in communication <u>via the client-side I/O port</u> with the client-side I/O device, and ~~to directly receive~~ <u>by informing the device driver of a client-side I/O device event received</u> from the <u>client-side</u> device handler ~~an I/O event received from the client-side I/O device, to directly control the client-~~ ~~side I/O device~~.

4.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A client, comprising:

a <u>client-side</u> device handler to ~~control a client-side I/O device coupled with the client~~ ~~based on a control signal directly received from~~<u>receive input-output control for a client-side I/O</u> <u>device from</u> a <u>server device driver and a server</u> virtual I/O port ~~on~~<u>in</u> a server <u>communicably</u> <u>connected with the client</u>~~based upon system resources in the server, the control signal~~ ~~generated by a device driver in the server based on operating instructions generated by software~~ ~~on the server~~, and to ~~directly~~transmit a~~n~~<u>a client-side</u> I/O <u>device</u> event ~~received from the client-~~ ~~side I/O device~~to the <u>server</u> virtual I/O port ~~in the server~~.

5.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The client according to claim 4, further comprising:

at least one client-side I/O port, which is coupled with the client-side I/O device, and which is controlled by the device driver in the server.

6.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The client/server system of claim 1, wherein the client-side I/O device is a bar code reader.

3

7.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The client/server system of claim 1, wherein the client and server communicate via a LAN.

8.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The client/server system of claim 1, wherein the client and server communicate via the WWW.

9.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A client/server system comprising:
a client comprising:
    at least one client-side I/O device, and
    a programmed computer processor to function as a device handler handling data communication, including an I/O event from the at least one client-side I/O device, via ana client-side I/O port connected to the at least one client-side I/O device; and
    a server communicably connectable with the client and comprising:
    a programmed computer processor handling data communication, including directlyto function at the server as a client-side device driver for input-output control of the client-side I/O port, and to function at the server as a client-side I/O port interface to the device driver by transmitting an input-output control received from the device driver to the client device handler and informing the device driver of a client-side I/O event received from the client device handler controlling the at least one I/O device of the client and directly handling the I/O event from the at least one I/O device of the client, via a virtual I/O port in the server to the at least one I/O device of the client.

4